

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 HA-05 EB-08 COME-00 INT-05  
AID-05 PC-01 /123 W  
-----086449 291049Z /12

P 290909Z JUN 78  
FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2511  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LUBUMBASHI 0772

E.O. 11652 GDS  
TAGS: MOPS, AID, EMIN, ECRE, CT  
SUBJECT: LIFE IN KOLWEZI- RESUMING AN AIR OF NORMALCY

REF: (A) LUBUMBASHI 0762, (B) LUBUMBASHI 0753

1. SUMMARY: PAN-AFRICAN FORCE OF MOROCCANS, SENEGALESE  
AND IVORIANS UNDER CONTROL OF SENEGALESE COLONEL HAVE MADE  
SUCCESSFUL BEGINNING TO ELIMINATE LAWLESSNESS IN KOLWEZI.  
BELGIANS ARE PLANNING RELIEF DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM OF 200  
TONS OF FOODSTUFFS, BUT NOT YET COORDINATING CLOSELY WITH  
ICRC EFFORT. GECAMINES CONTINUES HIGH CAPACITY OUTPUT WITH  
LIMITED STAFF. NO SERIOUS BREAKDOWNS TO DATE, BUT EXPATRIATE  
EXPRS ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT LEVEL CAN BE MAINTAINED MUCH  
LONGER. BREWERY AND RAILROAD ARE ALSO RESUMING LIMITED  
OPERATIONS. ALTHOUGH ALL VISITORS HAVE NOTES SURPRISING  
CHANGE IN ATMOSPHERE IN KOLWEZI, ALL ARE ALSO AWARE  
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OF BASIC PROBLEMS HAVE NOT BEEN RESOLVED END SUMMARY

2. MILITARY SITUATION: ONE BATTALION OF MOROCCANS  
AND ANOTHER OF SENEGALESE, TOTALLY ABOUT 1,000 TROOPS  
HAVE ESTABLISHED THEMSELVES IN KOLWEZI DURING THE PAST  
TEN DAYS. THE UNITS HAVE BEGUN ROUTINE PATROLS OF THE  
TOWNS AND SURROUNDING CITIES. THE PRIMARY TARGET OF

THEIR ACTIONS HAVE BEEN THE MARAUDING ZAIRIAN SOLDIERS WHOSE PILLAGING HAD CONTINUED UNTIL RECENTLY THOUGH ON A MUCH DIMINISHED SCALE. BY ALL ACCOUNTS THE TENSION OF PREVIOUS WEEKS CAUSED BY MILITARY HARASSEMENT HAS NOW BEEN GREATLY REDUCED. THE ONLY REPORTED CASUALITIES IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS, ACCORDING TO THE ICRC, WERE THREE PEOPLE KILLED DURING THE FAZ CAMPAIGN TO KILL STRAY DOGS IN THE TOWN. COMMANDER OF THE PAN AFRICAN FORCE (PAF) COLONEL LOUBARIS SAID HE EXPECTS THAT WITHIN TEN DAYS THE PAF WILL HAVE RESTORED SUFFICIENT ORDER TO THE TOWN TO PERMIT THE RETURN OF THE EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY ON A NEAR PERMANENT BASIS.

3. ALTHOUGH THE MOROCCAN COLONEL LOUBARIS IS IN CONTROL THE THE ENTIRE FORCE, A SENEGALESE COLONEL HEADS THE MISSION IN KOLWEZI. EARLIER PROBLEMS OF RESENTMENT OVER THE CONTROL OF ALL COMMAND POSITIONS BY THE MOROCCANS, WHICH THE SENEGALESE HAD REPORTEDLY PROTESTED, WERE PARTIALLY OVERCOME BY THE NAMING OF A SENEGALESE TO HEAD KOLWEZI OPERATIONS.

4. THE ONLY OTHER PAN AFRICAN ELEMENTS IN KOLWEZI ARE TWO DOCTORS AND 50 NURSES FROM THE IVORY COAST CONTINGENT WHO ARRIVED DURING THE FIRST PART OF THE WEEK OF JUNE 25.

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5. ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS: IN ADDITION TO THE ICRC RELIEF PROGRAM REPORTED IN REFTEL A, THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEGUN A HUMANITARIAN RELIEF EFFORT IN KOLWEZI. THREE STAGES ARE PLANNED OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS. THE FIRST STEP WHICH CONSISTS OF 250 MT OF FOODSTUFFS(200 MT FOR KOLWEZI AND 50 .5 MT FOR KINSHASA) HAS BEGUN ARRIVING AT KAMINA, WHERE THE BELGIANS HAVE RECENTLY ROTATED A NEW PARATROOP BATTALION(REFTEL B) THE FOOD WILL BE TRANSPORTED BY BELGIAN AIRCRAFT BEGINNING ON ABOUT JUNE 29 TO KOLWEZI WHERE IT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE BELGIAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PERSONNEL WITH THE PROTECTION OF ABOUT 70-100 BELGIAN PARATROOPERS. THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE RETURN OF THE BELGIAN PARATROOPERS TO KOLWEZI IN SUCH NUMBERS SAYING IT SHOWS LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE PAF AND ZAIRIAN OFFICIALS, BUT THE CONSULATE PERSONNEL BELIEVE A MILITARY PRESENCE IS NECESSARY TO INSURE AN EFFECTIVE PROGRAM. THE FOOD WILL BE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH NEIGHBORHOOD AND RELIGIOUS GROUPS IN KOLWEZI. ACCORDING TO THE BELGIANS, COOPERATION BETWEEN LOCAL ZAIRIAN AND BELGIAN OFFICIALS HAS BEEN VERY CLOSE DURING THE PLANNING

OF THIS PROGRAM, WITH THE ZAIRIANS SUGGESTING WAYS TO PROVIDE TIGHT SUPERVISION OF ALL DISTRIBUTION CHANNELS. ALTHOUGH THE ICRC IS AWARE OF THE BELGIAN PROGRAM THERE HAS NOT BEEN VERY MUCH COORDINATION TO DATE. BELGIAN OFFICIALS EXPECT THIS FIRST PHASE OF THE PROGRAM TO END ABOUT JULY 7 SO THAT THE PARATROOPERS CAN RETURN TO KAMINA AND BE OUT OF THE COUNTRY BY A BELGIAN-GOVERNMENT IMPOSED DEADLINE OF JULY 10. THERE IS NO INFORMATION AS YET ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMS SECOND PHASE.

6. GECAMINES ACTIVITIES: GECAMINES HAS CONTINUED TO RUN ITS KOLWEZI OPERATIONS OFFICIALLY AT HIGH CAPACITY LEVELS WITHOUT SERIOUS TECHNOLOGICAL PROBLEMS. THE OPEN  
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PIT MINES AND KOLWEZI CONCENTRATOR WHICH BEGAN OPERATIONS ON MAY 28 HAVE REPORTEDLY CONTINUED TO OPERATE AT 90-100 PC CAPACITY. THE KAMOTO UNDERGROUND MINE WHICH RESTARTED ON JUNE 3 IS OPERATING AT ABOUT 50 PC OF CAPACITY. THE KAMOTO CONCENTRATOR AND LUILU FACTORY WHICH ALSO BEGAN WORKING AGAIN ON JUNE 3 HAVE BEEN FUNCTIONING AT 90 AND 80 PC OF CAPACITY RESPECTIVELY. THE UZK ZINC FACTORY WHICH REOPENED ON JUNE 3 HAVE BEEN FUNCTIONING ABOUT 70 PC OF CAPACITY, ABOVE PRODUCTIVITY PERCENTAGES ARE MAINTAINED BY GECAMINES ZAIRIAN STAFF MEMBERS BASED

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LUBUMBASI 0772

ON INFORMATION FROM ZAIRIAN TECHNICIANS IN KOLWEZI. THE EXPATRIATE STAFF IN LUBUMBASHI VIEWS SUCH FIGURES WITH SKEPTICISM. THEY NOTE THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU HAS PUSHED FOR THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE PRODUCTIVITY. THEY BELIEVE THE AVERAGE FIGURES FOR ALL KOLWEZI OPERATIONS MAY BE CLOSER TO 50-60PC BUT ACKNOWLEDGE THAT ALL PLANTS ARE FUNCTIONING AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO SERIOUS BRAKDOWN TO DATE. THE KOLWEZI INSTALLATIONS

ARE BEING RUN BY ABOUT 20-5 RESIDENT ZAIRIAN ENGINNERS AND 350 ZAIRIAN CADRE SUPPLEMENTED BY DAILY VISITS FROM EUROPEAN AND ZAIRIAN OFFICIALS FROM LUBUMBASHI.

SEVERAL OF THE ZAIRIAN CADRE SUPPLEMENTED FROM KOLWEZI HAVE BEEN MADE IT KNOWN THAT THE HARD PACE WHICH THEY MUST KEEP TO REPLACE THE WORK OF 450 MISSING EXPATRIATES HAS BEEN EXCESSIVELY DEMANDING. FEW PEOPLE EXPACT THAT THE PRESENT  
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PRODUCTIVITY LEVEL CAN BE MAINTED FOR TOO MANY ADDITIONAL WEEKS WITHOUT SERIOUSBREAKDOWNS UNLESS THERE IS AN INFUSION OF OUTSIDE TALENT TO RELIEVE THE OVERWORKED ZAIRIAN STAFF AND PROVIDE PREVENTATIVE MAINTENENACE.

7' OTHER ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES: ONE OF KOLWEZI'S LARGEST NON-MINING INDUSTRIES, THE KOLWEZI BRASSIMBA BREWERY, EXPECTS TO RESTART ITS OPERATIONS IN TWO DAYS. NO DAMAGE ACCORRED AT THE BREWERY DURING THE INVASION. ONLY ONE OF THE COMPANY'S ZAIRIANS CADRE HAS BEEN REPORTED MISSING. RAW MATERIALS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SHIPPED FROM LUBUMBASHI AND THREE EXPATRIATES ARE READY TO BEGIN WORK. RAILROAD OFFICIALS ALSO REPORTED THAT THERE WAS VERY LITTLE DAMAGE TO ANY OF THEIR INSTALLATIONS AT KOLWEZI. REGULAR TRAFFIC HAS RESUMED WITHOUT ANY PARTICUARL PROBLEMS. COMMERCIAL LIFE IS BEING RESTORED MORE SLOWLY AS A RESULT OF THE EARLIER LOOTING OF MOST STORES AND THE HARRASSMENT BY FAZ OF BUSINESSMEN WHO ATTEMPTED TO REOPEN THEIR STORES IN THE DAYS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TOWNS REOCCUPATION.

8. COMMENT: ALL RECENT VISITORS TO KOLWEZI TESTIFY TO THE IMPORTANT CHANGE IN THE TOWNS ATMOSPHERE.

MOROCCAN-SENEGALESE FORCES HAVE QUICKLY ESTABLISHED  
THEIR PRESENCE AND PUT AN END TO THE PREVIOUS LAWLESS-  
NESS. SINCE DAMAGE WAS LESS EXTENSIVE THAN INITIALLY  
SUSPECTED, ECONOMIC ACTIVITY HAS MORE QUICKLY RESUMED  
A SEMBLANCE OF NORMALITY THAN HAD BEEN THOUGHT  
POSSIBLE AT THE END OF MAY. LIFE HAS BEGUN AGAIN IN  
KOLWEZI, ALBEIT WITHOUT EUROPEAN RESIDENTS. NONETHE  
LESS NOBODY CAN FORGET THAT THE NEAR NORMALCY IS  
ARTIFICIALLY IMPOSED BY THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGN TROOPS  
AND EXTRA HOURS OF EFFORTS BY GECAMINES, ZAIRIAN CADRE  
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THE BASIC PROBLEMS HAVE NOT BEEN TOUCHED: UNDISCIPLINED  
ZAIRIAN SOLDIERS (ALTHOUGH NO LONGER A PROBLEM IN KOLWEZI  
) AN ABSENCE OF LOCAL SUPPORT FOR THE MOBUTU GOVERNMENT  
NO FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS TO REBUILD THE TOWN NOR  
PURCHASE REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT FOR GECAMINES AND NO NEW  
CREDIT SOURCES FOR KOLWEZI COMMERCIAL COMMUNITY.  
UNLESS THESE PROBLEMS ARE RESOLVED, THE PRESENT ECONOMIC  
PACE CANNOT BE MAINTAINED AND FURTHER DEMORALIZATION  
AMONG KOLWEZI'S HARD-PRESSED ZAIRIAN POPULATION IS A  
CERTAINTY. EVEN IF THE GOVERNMENT IS ABLE TO TAKE EFFECTIVE  
MEASURES TO OVERCOME THE BASIC PROBLEMS, DIFFICULT  
DAYS LIE AHEAD FOR KOLWEZI. UNDER THE BEST OF ALL  
CIRCUMSTANCES IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO RESTORE A SENSE OF  
CONFIDENCE TO LIFE IN KOLWEZI AFTER THE EVENTS OF LAST  
MAY. AND NOBODY EXPECTS THE BEST CIRCUMSTANCES TO  
PREVAIL. ON THE CONTRARY MOST OBSERVERS IN SHABA ANTICIPATE MUCH  
TALK BUT LITTLE ACTION TO SOLVE ZAIRE'S BASIC  
DIFFICULTIES DURING THE COMING MONTHS.

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## Message Attributes

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